an>

Title : Need to take steps for revival of Coir industry in Kerala.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Coir Industry is one of the major traditional industry in Kerala. Nearly four lakhs workers are employed with the industry and most of them are women. Now the industry is facing serious problems. Many cooperative societies have closed down. In order to give some support to the industry, the Government of India has sanctioned a project under Industry Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme, with a total outlay of 56.8 crores in the Coir Industry to develop a coir cluster in Alappuza, Kerala.

For implementing the project, special purpose vehicle is set up in the form of a society comprising of all stakeholders. The Department of Industries Policy and Promotion (DIPSP) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry is monitoring the Implementation of the Project.

The project formulated and approved by the Ministry envisages setting up of common facility centres, common affluent treatment plants for exporters and small and medium scale manufacturers, distribution of rafts and workshed and other amenities for the benefit of women spinners in the cooperative sector as well as private sector. The Board of Directors after long deliberations had recommended to the Ministry for re-appropriation of the financial outlay by including a few activities.

Land is precious entity in Kerala. So the apex committee of the IIUS while considering the project on cluster based developmental programmes, have permitted inclusion of working capital as well as the cost of land for providing grant-in-aid. But this proposal is not approved by the Ministry. I urge upon the Government that the cost of land, working capital, and the Market Developing Assistance (MDA) given by the Government to the Cooperative Societies may also be considered as the State is to fulfill 25% share of the stake holders.